

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to speak on this most important occasion.

I am proud to be here this evening to honor my Armenian friends—particularly on the eve of the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. I want to associate my comments with an article that I recently read in the *Jerusalem Post*, which said . . . “The 1915 wholesale massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks remains a core experience of the Armenian nation . . . While there is virtually zero tolerance for Holocaust denial, there is tacit acceptance of the denial of the Armenian genocide in part because ‘the Turks have managed to structure this debate so that people question whether this really happened . . .’” Well we know that the death of 1.5 million Armenians by execution or starvation really happened, and we know that we must not tolerate this denial.

In fact we have an obligation to educate and familiarize Americans with the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide. As Members of Congress, we must ensure that the legacy of the genocide is remembered so that this human tragedy will not be repeated. Toward that end I have sponsored H. Res. 398, the “United States Training on and Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Resolution.”

This bipartisan resolution calls upon the President to provide for appropriate training and materials to all Foreign Service officers, officials of the Department of State, and any other Executive Branch employee involved in responding to issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. As we have seen in recent years, genocide and ethnic cleansing continues to plague nations around the world, and as a great nation, we must always be attentive and willing to stand against such atrocities.

My resolution also calls upon the President in the President’s annual message commemorating the Armenian Genocide to characterize the systematic and deliberate annihilation of the 1.5 million Armenians as genocide, and to recall the proud history of the United States intervention in opposition to the Armenian Genocide.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today, as I have in times past, to recognize and pay tribute to those who perished during the Armenian Genocide that began almost nine decades ago.

Turkey’s continued refusal to acknowledge the atrocities committed against the Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire during the first World

War has long been of great concern to me as an educator, a United States representative, and simply as a member of the global community.

Each year many colleagues take this special opportunity to recognize the fact that more than a million and a half Armenians were killed. In addition, much of the Armenian population was forcibly deported. This day coming up, April 24, is an opportunity to remind all Americans to join with the Armenians at home and in the United States in commemoration and memory of those who lost their lives because of the tragic events that took place from 1915 to 1918 and again from 1920 to 1923.

As an educator, it is important to emphasize the role education should play nationally, as well as globally, in ensuring that we do not continue to see racial intolerance or religious persecution which has in so many cases led to so-called ethnic cleansing by murderous and perverted butchers. What an outrage for humans to treat other humans such human killers of small children.

Genocide is not just a chapter in the history of humankind that has been sealed and closed forever. It continues to be a progressively alarming problem today, as our world grows smaller and our population doubles every few years.

Events during the last two decades, Cambodia, Rwanda, Kosovo attest to this fact. We must, therefore, strive to teach our children tolerance. Our future generations must not forget those darker moments of history in the 21st century. The million and a half Armenians, the 6 million Jews murdered by Adolph Hitler’s orders, the 2 million Cambodians murdered by Pol Pot’s orders.

As long as Turkey continues to deny that millions of Armenians were killed simply because of their ethnic identification, we will continue to stand here and take this important opportunity to ensure that the memory of the Armenian Genocide is not forgotten.

Madam Speaker, educators around the country should use April 24, a day that a group of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and brutally murdered by Turkish killers. It is essential to cultivate awareness in our children of the past tragedies that have occurred.

If we do not see the future dangers that will exist, if we refuse to acknowledge, understand and vigorously oppose racial and religious intolerance, wherever it arises, it would be shame on us and it shall not be.

HIGH COSTS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise once again to address the high costs of prescription drugs in this country, and

the recently released Republican plan that will do absolutely nothing to help the people of this country, especially our senior citizens, who are struggling with these high prescription drug prices.

The Republicans have finally released that the seniors in their districts and across this country are struggling with these high prescription drug prices. So they came up with a plan, a phony plan, one that does not guarantee our seniors affordable prescription drugs. It does provide a plan to protect the profits of the prescription drug manufacturers in this country. They say that the seniors will be able to buy private prescription drug plans. Do these private plans mean that seniors will be able to afford their medicines?

Madam Speaker, there is nothing in their plan that does that. The GAO proposal creates a brand new bureaucracy, a very inefficient counterproductive system for providing and subsidizing a drug benefit. We know that we need to provide a drug benefit for our senior citizens, particularly those on Medicare.

A recently released White House report shows that 43 percent of rural residents on Medicare have no prescription drug coverage. Those without coverage pay nearly twice as much out of pocket as anyone else. The report is just another justification that seniors need a good prescription drug benefit under Medicare. They need access to lower-priced prescription drugs, like all the rest of the world has. Americans without a prescription drug benefit spend more for their medicine than anyone else in the world.

The prescription drug manufacturers are now running ads under the guise of Citizens for Better Medicare. This is a front group for the manufacturers. This ad claims that if you allow a reasonably-priced prescription drug to be sold in this country at relatively the same price that it sold in other countries that you threaten the research and development, the fact is, in countries where they sell these products for half as much as they do in America, they are increasing their research and development faster than they are in the United States. This just simply does not make any sense.

They say that to allow Americans to purchase prescription drugs at reasonable prices and at fair prices, like all the rest of the world has, that it would create a situation where our health care system would be in danger and that we would end up with a bad system. There is nothing to that.

This is just an attempt to frighten the senior citizens to think that they may not have access at all to good medication. The fact is what the fright should be, what the fright is, the manufacturers are fearful that they will lose their exorbitant profits that they squeeze from the pockets of our senior citizens in this country every day.